

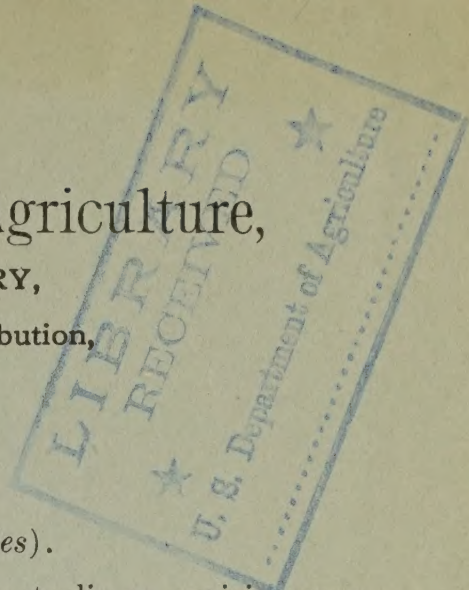
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United States Department of Agriculture,  
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RESCUE GRASS (*Bromus unioloides*).

Rescue grass is known as Schrader's brome and in Australia as prairie grass. In most situations it is an annual, although when kept cut or grazed down persistently so that it can not produce seed it becomes a short-lived perennial. It makes an erect growth 1 to 3 feet high, several stems arising from one base. The seed head is a spreading panicle, with much flattened spikelets, drooping when mature. The plant seeds freely and usually dies after seeding. It is a native of South America, but is also found in a naturalized state in Central America, Mexico, and in the Southern States.

*Value as a winter pasture grass.*—Rescue grass is adapted to cultivation in the Gulf States, where it is grown for winter pasture. It has been tested quite widely by the State agricultural experiment stations, but its success so far has been limited to the Southern States as far north as Tennessee and west to the New Mexico line and to the coast district of southern California. Along the Gulf coast where the moisture supply is constant no better winter pasture grass is known. In North Carolina it is listed as superior to orchard grass in the quantity of forage produced. Its ability to succeed in regions subject to periods of excessive drought arises from the fact that the seeds fall early in the spring and lie dormant during the hot summer, germinating in the autumn on the approach of cool weather and fall rains. In feeding value rescue grass ranks among the best hay grasses, containing a higher percentage of protein than either rye or oat hay and but little less than *Bromus inermis*. It is as a pasture grass, however, that it excels. It produces a large quantity of very succulent leaves, which are renewed rapidly after being grazed off. It can be mixed with bur clover, crimson clover, or winter vetch to good advantage. By sowing rescue grass in Bermuda-grass sod a continuous pasture can be secured throughout the year. When plowed under in the spring it is equal to winter rye or oats as a fertilizer.

*Culture.*—The seed of rescue grass resembles that of the common oat except that it is lighter, weighing only 14 pounds to the bushel, but its size makes it necessary to cover it more deeply than ordinary grass seed. Sow on carefully prepared land in September or the first of October in the Southern States, and if the weather conditions are favorable it will come on rapidly in November, and one crop can be cut the last of December or the first of January; the second, in March. This will give the third growth sufficient time to produce a seed crop, which can be plowed under and the land sown to cowpeas or any summer crop which can be removed sufficiently early in the autumn to allow the grass seed which has lain dormant during the summer to germinate in October. Thus the volunteer seeding will make the grass practically a perennial. Handled with equal care on good loamy soil it will give better winter pasture than either oats or rye and will yield even more abundantly than orchard grass. On poor soil, however, the yield is light, and the use of vetch or of crimson or bur clover is preferable for hay purposes. Rescue grass does not succeed well on heavy clay soil in Texas, but on light loamy soil it is certainly the best grass for winter pasture. Sorghum, cowpeas, or velvet beans may be used to follow it as a summer crop. In the Northern States it may be sown either in the spring or autumn. Usually it is more satisfactory to sow broadcast, as the seed is too chaffy to feed through a common drill. Thirty pounds of seed per acre on suitably prepared soils is the required amount. Seed may be purchased of seedsmen at 12 to 15 cents per pound. Rescue grass will probably never be important in the North, but it is no doubt capable of a much wider use as a winter pasture grass in those portions of the Southwest where most of the rainfall comes during the cool, winter months.

Rescue grass has given much promise in California and should be tested fully in the warmer parts of the arid region where the rainfall comes in winter.



